

BISHOP AUCKLAND

Urban District Council.

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

T. A. McCULLAGH,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., ETC.,


Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health,

*FOR THE YEAR 1904.*

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

During the year 1904 the total number of deaths registered in the Urban District was 310. Included in this total are 64 deaths which took place in Public Institutions in the district, 38 of which were residents belonging to other localities. Two deaths of persons belonging to the Urban District took place in a Public Institution outside the district, namely, the County Asylum at Sedgfield. The nett deaths with which I have to deal according to the regulations of the Local Government Board consequently amount to 274, giving a death rate of 21·9 per 1,000 per annum.

The population for the middle of the year 1904 is estimated at 12,479, and I have used this number in making the calculations for my report.

Eighty-three children under 1 year of age died, which is a considerable increase upon the total of the previous year. This gives an Infant Mortality rate, that is the rate per 1,000 births registered, of 214, and an average for the 2 years 1903 and 1904 of 177. The County average for the same years is 161·5. It is difficult to satisfactorily account for the increase. The usual cause for a large Infant Mortality is improper feeding, but the deaths from diseases which are dependent upon this are few in number, there being only 1 from Diarrhœa and 4 from Enteritis. Bronchitis and Pneumonia are responsible for 19, and 7 are due to Premature Birth. There were none from any of the Infectious Diseases. Sixty-four deaths were those of people 65 years of age or upwards.

The deaths from the Zymotic Diseases were as follows :—

Measles ...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	1
Diphtheria	...	3
Enteric Fever	...	3
Diarrhœa ...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	1
		<hr/>
		14

No deaths occurred from Small Pox, Croup, Continued Fever, or Puerperal Fever. The Zymotic death rate is 1·1, fractionally lower than the previous two years, and very considerably lower than the County rate, which is 2·59.

There were 19 deaths from Phthisis, an increase of 5 on the previous year. The death rate is 1·52. From other

Tuberculous Diseases 15, from Cancer 13, Bronchitis 30, Pneumonia 21, from Heart Diseases 15, and from Accidents 8. The deaths from Bronchitis form the largest total for any one complaint.

### **Notification of Infectious Diseases.**

During the year there were 156 cases of Infectious Diseases notified. They were as follows :—

Diphtheria	...	11
Erysipelas	...	22
Scarlet Fever	...	77
Enteric Fever	...	36
Continued Fever	...	9
Puerperal Fever	...	1
		<hr/> 156

There were no cases of Small Pox or of Croup.

### **Diphtheria.**

There were 11 cases of Diphtheria. It was in no sense epidemic, and none of the cases had any apparent connection with each other. No second case occurred in any of the infected houses, all of which were carefully disinfected. There were 3 deaths.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

As in the previous year, Scarlet Fever was the most prevalent of the Infectious Diseases. The notified cases numbered 77, and I have no doubt that a large number of cases were unnotified. The disease is frequently of such a mild type in children that it is almost unnoticed by the parents, and no attempt is consequently made at isolation. Cases were notified during every month of the year except December. There were 2 deaths.

### Enteric Fever.

Thirty-six cases were notified during the year. They occurred as follows :—

January	...	...	1
February	...	...	1
March	...	...	2
April	...	...	—
May	...	...	—
June	...	...	1
July	...	...	1
August	...	...	—
September	...	...	2
October	...	...	3
November	...	...	2
December	...	...	21
			<hr/>
			34

And 2 cases were notified which ultimately appeared not to be enteric.

Up to December the number of cases was not greater than one might expect in a district such as this, but early in that month the disease appeared simultaneously in various parts of the town. Cases were notified at Cockton Hill, Blue Row, Gray Street, Grainger Street, Frederick and Southgate Streets, High Tenters Street, The Police Station, Newton Cap Bank, Princes Street, Dial Stob Hill, Salisbury Place, Bondgate, Bridge Street, South Terrace, Waddington Street. As a rule the attacks were not of a severe type, and relapses were less frequent than usual. To trace the source of the infection with certainty is difficult. The Milk Supply may, I think, be ruled out. Some of the families affected had no milk supplied, or used tinned milk, and the others were supplied from widely different dairies. Other possible causes are, firstly, an accidental and temporary contamination of the Water Supply; and secondly, the

sudden flooding of the drains and sewers by the melting snow in November after a long period of drought. I am assured by the manager of the Water Works that no unfiltered water has ever been allowed to pass into the mains, and as long as the filter beds are kept in proper order, and the water is not allowed to pass through them too quickly, I have every confidence in the purity of the supply. There is no system of water purification which gives an Urban District such as ours greater security from water-borne diseases than efficient sand filtration.

Although the sewers and drains were repeatedly flushed during the year, many of them became foul during the long continued drought. The sudden melting of the snow in November washed much accumulated surface filth into them, and brought about a condition very favourable to the spread of enteric. The date of the outbreak in December coincides with the insanitary state of the drains in November, as the period of incubation of Enteric Fever averages about 21 days. After the infection has been received the disease appears in from 14 to 28 days.

Although the outbreak ceased suddenly, yet cases will occur for some time in connection with it. In a district which largely uses privy-ashpits, this is invariably the case. However carefully and promptly disinfection is carried out there is always a period during which infected matter is thrown into privies and ashpits untreated by disinfectants.

### **The Infectious Hospital, South Church Lane.**

There were 38 patients treated at the Hospital during the year, and visits were made on 175 days.

Diphtheria ...	...	4
Scarlet Fever	...	15
Enteric Fever	...	19

There were 2 deaths.

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Many of the Scarlet Fever patients were ill for only a few days, but had to remain many weeks in the Hospital till the peeling of the skin ceased. I found a difficulty in providing sufficient exercise for them when convalescent, the available space round the Hospital being so small. I draw the attention of the Council to the fact that Football Clubs play in the fields at each side of the Hospital, one of them within a few feet of the building—too near to be free from the risk of infection when Scarlet Fever cases are under treatment.

### **The Water Supply.**

Notwithstanding the drought, which seriously limited the Water Supply of many districts, there was no limitation of the supply to the Urban District. The question of any possible contamination has been referred to previously, and I can only emphasise what I have said before, that if the filters are kept in good order and not worked beyond their capacity, there will be no risk of any infection being carried to the consumers. I think a third filter bed should be provided. The engines from the old pumping station at Newton Cap Bridge have been removed, and there is now no possibility of this source of unfiltered water being used.

### **Scavenging, Ashpits, Etc.**

The Scavenging has been satisfactorily done during the year, and the cleansing and disinfection of Ashpits has been thorough. I have received several complaints about the nuisance caused by the deposit of refuse at the bottom of Newton Cap Bank on the ground leading to West Mill. The people who live at the bottom of the Bank allege that the smell is at times very offensive.

### **Cow Sheds.**

The Cow Sheds in the district are kept clean and are in good sanitary order.



## **Insanitary Property.**

Many improvements, which are given in detail in the accompanying report, have been made at the instance of the Council during the year, the most important of which were in Newton Cap Bank, Blue Row, Newgate Street, Brewer Street, George Street, Victoria Street, and several places in Frederick Street.

## **Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.**

I have inspected most of the Factories and Workshops during the year. They were all in sanitary condition, and I have no special recommendations to make.

## **Precautions against Infectious Disease.**

Fifty-six houses were disinfected after Infectious Diseases

## **Tuberculous Meat.**

A large quantity of Tuberculous Meat which was exposed for sale in the Market Place was seized by my orders. It was condemned by the Magistrates, and the Butcher who offered it for sale was fined £10.

I append a summary of work done under Public Health Acts, and the Forms of Vital Statistics, causes of, and ages at death, and cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1904, as now required by the Local Government Board.

**TABLE 1.**  
**Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous Years.**  
**BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT.**

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.					Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.						Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate*						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1894	10680	394	31.4	61	181	223	20.1						
1895	11847	424	35.7	67	158	257	19.3						
1896	12197	379	31	61	148	235	17.1						
1897	12152	344	28.3	63	183	220	17.3						
1898	12700	353	27.8	59	164	208	16.3						
1899	12850	408	31.6	90	220	290	22.5						
1900	12850	372	28.9	72	193	265	20.6	51	20	3	248	19.2	
1901	11966	395	32.9	65	164	271	22.6	52	23	7	256	21.3	
1902	12162	389	31.9	59	151	219	18	53	24	9	204	16.7	
1903	12319	419	34	59	140	246	19.9	70	42	8	212	17.2	
Averages for years 1894-1903.	12172	387	31.35	65	170.2	243	19.4	56	27	7	230	18.6	
1904	12479	387	31.01	83	214.4	310	24.8	64	38	2	274	21.9	

Total population at all ages, 11,969  
 Number of inhabited houses, 2,387  
 Average number of persons per house, 5.0  
 } at Census of 1901.  
 Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 950.

TABLE III.

# Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT.

Notifiable Diseases.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria ... ..	11	...	3	7	1	...	4		
Membranous Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Erysipelas ... ..	22	...	2	5	13	2	...		
Scarlet Fever ... ..	77	...	21	52	2	2	15		
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Enteric Fever ... ..	36	...	1	10	14	11	19		
Relapsing Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Continued Fever ... ..	9	...	3	5	...	1	...		
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...		
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Totals ... ..	156	...	25	72	28	29	2	38	

Isolation Hospitals—South Church Lane, and Joint District Small-Pox Hospital at Binchester.

TABLE IV.

## Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small Pox ... ..	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	
Measles ... ..	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup ... ..	3	..	...	3	...	...	...	
Croup ... ..	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
{ Enteric ... ..	3	...	1	...	1	1	...	1
{ Other continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	
Epidemic Influenza ... ..	4	...	1	...	1	2	...	
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	
Diarrhœa ... ..	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Enteritis ... ..	5	4	...	...	1	...	...	
Puerperal Fever ... ..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Erysipelas ... ..	1	...	...	...	..	..	1	
Other Septic Diseases ... ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ... ..	19	...	2	1	3	13	...	3
Other Tubercular Diseases ... ..	15	4	3	3	2	3	..	5
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	13	...	...	..	..	8	5	5
Bronchitis ... ..	30	7	3	1	..	6	13	1
Pneumonia ... ..	21	12	2	1	...	4	2	1
Pleurisy ... ..	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs ... ..	6	...	2	...	...	3	1	
Alcoholism {	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	
Cirrhosis of Liver {	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Veneral Diseases ... ..	1	1	...	..	...	...	...	
Premature Birth ... ..	7	7	...	...	...	..	...	
Diseases and Accidents of parturition ... ..	4	...	...	...	1	3	...	
Heart Diseases ... ..	15	...	...	1	1	8	5	7
Accidents ... ..	8	1	...	3	...	3	1	3
Suicides ... ..	2	...	..	...	...	2	...	
All other causes ... ..	109	44	10	2	5	12	36	37
All causes ... ..	274	81	28	16	15	70	64	64

# Summary of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances Department during the Year 1904, in the Urban District of Bishop Auckland.

1. Public Health Acts.		Number of Informal Written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice	General Remarks.
Dwelling-houses and Schools	{ Foul Conditions ... { Structural Defects ... { Overcrowding ...	52 Letters have been written to various owners for the abatement of Nuisances, &c.	1	1	
Lodging-houses	...		13	10	
Dairies and Milkshops	...		2		
Cowsheds	...				
Bakehouses	...				
Slaughter-houses	...				
*Ashpits and Privies	...		20	9	*Privies removed ... 48
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...				Ashpits .. 9
Waterclosets	...		1	1	Old Drains relaid ... 5
Defective Yard Paving	...		18	10	New Gullies inserted ... 11
House Drainage	{ Defective Traps ... { No Disconnection from Sewers ... { Other Faults ...		1	1	W.C's. provided .. 21
Water Supply	...		1	1	Ashclosets .. 27
Pigsties	...				Ashpits removed and Tubs substituted instead ... 17
Animals Improperly Kept	...				Yards Paved ... 32
Offensive Trades	...				Drains tested ... 5
Smoke Nuisances	...				
Other Nuisances	...				
TOTALS	...		58	33	

	Number.	Remarks.
<b>II. Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.</b>		
Formal Notices served	...	
Dwellings dealt with	...	
Dwellings made habitable after formal notice	...	
Closing Orders applied for	...	
Closing Orders granted by Magistrates	...	
Dwellings permanently closed	...	

## Summary—continued.

	Number.	Remarks.
<b>III. Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.</b>		
Action taken, Notices served, &c. ... ..		<p>All the Factories and Workshops that have been inspected were found to be fairly clean.</p> <p>One new Ashcloset has been provided.</p>
<b>IV. Water, Food and Drugs.</b>		
<p>Samples of Water taken for Analysis .. ..</p> <p>„ „ condemned as unfit for use .. ..</p> <p>Seizures of Unwholesome Food ... ..</p> <p>Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ... ..</p> <p>Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis .. ..</p> <p>„ „ found Adulterated ... ..</p>		<p>Two fore-quarters of Tuberculosis Beef were seized from a stall in the Market Place. The Butcher was summoned and fined £10 and costs.</p>
<b>V. Precautions against Infectious Disease.</b>		
<p>Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed .. ..</p> <p>Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..</p> <p>Schools „ „ „ „ „ .. ..</p> <p>Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ... ..</p> <p>Convictions for „ „ „ „ „ .. ..</p>	56	

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**T. A. McCULLAGH,**

Bishop Auckland,  
February, 1905.

M.O. 11.